

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No. 10/697,533	Applicant(s) RUNDLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Bernard Krasnic	Art Unit 2624	

All Participants:

Status of Application: _____

(1) Bernard Krasnic (Examiner).

(3) _____

(2) Kathleen Chapman (Reg. No. 46,094).

(4) _____

Date of Interview: 14 February 2008

Time: _____

Type of Interview:

- ☒ Telephonic
☐ Video Conference
☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, provide a brief description:

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:

Claims discussed:

6, 7, 10-12, 16-17, and 22

Prior art documents discussed:

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

See Continuation Sheet

Part III.

- ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.
☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

Bernard Krasnic

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: The Examiner initiated a call to the Applicant's attorney, Kathleen Chapman, in order to offer an Examiners Amendment to expedite prosecution. The Examiner suggested including a similar repetition step [step g of claim 1] as seen in claim 1 of the Amendment After Non-Final dated 11/26/2007 into each independent claims 6, 11, and 22. The Examiner also suggested canceling any redundant dependent claims if the suggestion was accepted. Ms. Chapman after contacting her Applicant faxed an amendment proposal to the Examiner which is attached to this interview summary. The Examiner agreed to these amendments.

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Fax

To: Examiner Bernard Krasnic	From: Kathy Chapman
Fax: 571-270-2357	Pages: 2
Phone: 571-270-1357	Date: 2/14/2008 fax #2
Re: Serial # 10/697,533	CC:

☐ **Urgent** ☒ **For Review** ☒ **Please Comment** ☒ **Please Reply** ☒ **Please Recycle**

Following is the complete list of claims with proposed amendments for your review.
Thank you for your help.

Claim 1: (previously presented) A method for identifying mail pieces having postage sides for special processing based upon a plurality of predetermined profiles, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting a combination of values for individual profile image characteristics to create each one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, the values being chosen such that the combination is consistent with threat mail, the individual profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece;
- b) storing the plurality of predetermined profiles, each of the predetermined profiles having values for the plurality of selected profile image characteristics;
- c) obtaining mail piece image characteristics associated with an image of a mail piece;
- d) retrieving one of the plurality of predetermined profiles that has not yet been used in a comparison;
- e) comparing the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles;
- f) identifying the mail piece for special processing, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics; and
- g) repeating steps d) through f) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 2: (cancelled)

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Claim 3: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of comparing the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles occurs during real-time processing.

Claim 4: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of comparing the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles occurs during offline processing.

Claim 5: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the profile image characteristics are selected from the group consisting of barcodes, address styles, address resolution, envelope size, initiating processing and distribution center, addressee, postage characteristics, markings, and handwriting characteristics.

Claim 6: (currently amended) A system enabling identification of mail pieces based upon predetermined profiles, the system comprising:

- a detector and optical elements configured to obtain an image of a mail piece;
- at least one processor configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with the image of the mail piece;
- at least one computer readable memory having:
 - (a) a database storing data for each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles, the data comprising:

- a profile identifier,
- a plurality of profile image characteristics and associated values, the values being chosen such that the plurality of profile image characteristics is consistent with threat mail, the profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece, and
- an action identifier configured to specify a plurality of actions associated with the profile identified by the profile identifier; and,

- (b) computer readable code embodied in the at least one computer readable memory, the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one processor to:

- (i) retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,
- (ii) compare the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data,
- (iii) identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data, if the mail piece image characteristics present in the retrieved data substantially match the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data,
- (iv) repeat steps i) through iii) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 7: (cancelled)

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Claim 8: (previously presented) The system of claim 6 further comprising:
a network interface and a server configured to communicate with a network.

Claim 9: (previously presented) The system of claim 8 further comprising:
a remote server configured to receive and send the data.

Claim 10: (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 wherein the plurality of predetermined profiles include selected combinations of the plurality of profile image characteristics are selected from the group consisting of barcodes, address styles, address resolution, envelope size, initiating processing and distribution center, addressee, postage characteristics, markings, and handwriting characteristics.

Claim 11: (currently amended) A system enabling identification of mail pieces based upon predetermined profiles, the system comprising:
a detector and optical elements configured to obtain an image of a mail piece;
at least one processor configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with the image of the mail piece;
a first computer readable memory for storing data for access by a process executed by at least one processor, said memory comprising:
a database storing data for each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles, the data comprising:

a profile identifier,
values for a plurality of selected profile image characteristics, the values being chosen such that the plurality of selected profile image characteristics is consistent with threat mail, the plurality of selected profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece, and
an action identifier configured to specify a plurality of actions associated with the profile identified by the profile identifier;

at least one second computer readable memory having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one processor to:

- (a) retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,
- (b) compare the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data, ~~[[and]]~~
- (c) identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data, if the mail piece image characteristics present in the retrieved data substantially match the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data, and
- (d) repeat steps a) through c) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 12: (cancelled)

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Claim 13: (previously presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising:
a network interface and a server configured to communicate with a network.

Claim 14: (previously presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising:
a remote server configured to receive and send the data.

Claim 15: (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein each of the profile image characteristics is selected from the group consisting of barcodes, address styles, address resolution, envelope size, initiating processing and distribution center, addressee, postage characteristics, markings, and handwriting characteristics.

[[Claims 16 and 17 refer to the "remote server" of claim 14, so I think they are not duplicates of clauses a-d in claim 11.]]

Claim 16: (previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the remote server includes:
at least one third memory having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one processor to:
retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,
compare the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece to the values for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data, and
identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece.

Claim 17: (previously presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the computer readable code is further configured to cause the at least one processor to:
retrieve further data corresponding to another predetermined profile from the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,
compare the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved further data, and
identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved further data, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece.

Claim 18: (previously presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising:
another memory for storing the data for access by a process executed by the remote server, said memory including a database.

Claim 19: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of comparing can be executed with a subset of the plurality of the predetermined profiles simultaneously, and wherein said step of identifying the mail piece for special processing can result from a match from any one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles.

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Claim 20: (previously presented) The system of claim 6 wherein said computer readable code is further configured to compare the mail piece image characteristics with a subset of the plurality of the predetermined profiles simultaneously, and wherein said computer readable code is further configured to identify the mail piece for special processing if there is a match from any one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles.

Claim 21: (previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein said computer readable code is further configured to compare the mail piece image characteristics with a subset of the plurality of the predetermined profiles simultaneously, and wherein said computer readable code is further configured to identify the mail piece for special processing if there is a match from any one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles.

Claim 22: (currently amended) A system for processing mail items and identifying mail items for special processing comprising:

- a transport sub-system configured to transport a mail item;
- an imaging sub-system configured to obtain an image of the mail piece;
- a database configured to store a plurality of predetermined profiles, each of the plurality of predetermined profiles having a plurality of selected profile image characteristics, the database including a combination of values for the selected profile image characteristics, the values being chosen such that the combination is consistent with threat mail, the selected profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece;
- a detector and optical elements configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with an image of the mail piece;
- a first computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to retrieve one of the plurality of predetermined profiles;
- a second computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to successively compare the mail piece image characteristics to [[each]] one of the plurality of predetermined profiles until a match is found, if any; and
- a third computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to identify the mail piece for special processing, if the one of the plurality predetermined profiles substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece; and
- a fourth computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to repeatedly execute said first computer readable code, said second computer readable code, and said third computer readable code for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 23: (previously presented) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

- computer readable code configured to identify the mail piece as requiring one of a plurality of actions identified by an action identifier from the retrieved other of the predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece.

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Claim 24: (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the profile image characteristics are selected from the group consisting of barcodes, address styles, address resolution, envelope size, initiating processing and distribution center, addressee, postage characteristics, markings, and handwriting characteristics.

Claim 25: (previously presented) The system of claim 22 further comprising:
a network interface and a server configured to communicate with a network.

Claim 26: (previously presented) The system of claim 25 further comprising:
a remote server configured to receive and send the data.

Claim 27: (previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein said computer readable code is further configured to compare the mail piece image characteristics with the combinations of values from more than one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles simultaneously, and wherein said computer readable code is further configured to identify the mail piece for special processing if there is a match from any one of the plurality of the predetermined profiles.

Claim 28: (previously presented) The system of claim 8 wherein said database is downloaded from the network.

Claim 29: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
modifying a result record associated with the image of the mail piece if the mail piece is flagged for the special processing;
transmitting the image to a remote site for manual image inspection according to the result record; and
classifying the mail piece based on the manual image inspection.

Claim 30: (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
h) archiving the mail image having archived mail piece image characteristics;
i) updating the plurality of predetermined profiles by creating at least one new predetermined profile having a plurality of selected new profile image characteristics;
j) retrieving one of the new predetermined profiles that has not yet been used in the comparison;
k) comparing the archived mail piece image characteristics to the at least one new predetermined profile;
l) identifying the archived mail piece for the special processing, if the new predetermined profile substantially matches the archived mail piece image characteristics; and
m) repeating steps (i) through (l) for another one of the new predetermined profiles, if the new predetermined profile does not substantially matches the archived mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 6: (currently amended) A system enabling identification of mail pieces based upon predetermined profiles, the system comprising:

a detector and optical elements configured to obtain an image of a mail piece;

at least one processor configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with the image of the mail piece;

at least one computer readable memory having:

(a) a database storing data for each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles, the data comprising:

a profile identifier,

a plurality of profile image characteristics and associated values, the values being chosen such that the plurality of profile image characteristics is consistent with threat mail, the profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece, and

an action identifier configured to specify a plurality of actions associated with the profile identified by the profile identifier; and,

(b) computer readable code embodied in the at least one computer readable memory, the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one processor to:

(i) retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,

(ii) compare the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data,

(iii) identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data, if the mail piece image characteristics present in the retrieved data substantially match the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data,

(iv) repeat steps i) through iii) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 7: (cancelled)

Claim 10: (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 wherein the plurality of predetermined profiles include selected combinations of the plurality of profile image characteristics are selected from the group consisting of barcodes, address styles, address resolution, envelope size, initiating processing and distribution center, addressee, postage characteristics, markings, and handwriting characteristics.

Claim 11: (currently amended) A system enabling identification of mail pieces based upon predetermined profiles, the system comprising:

- a detector and optical elements configured to obtain an image of a mail piece;
- at least one processor configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with the image of the mail piece;

- a first computer readable memory for storing data for access by a process executed by at least one processor, said memory comprising:

- a database storing data for each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles, the data comprising:

- a profile identifier,

- values for a plurality of selected profile image characteristics, the values being chosen such that the plurality of selected profile image characteristics is consistent with threat mail, the plurality of selected profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece, and

- an action identifier configured to specify a plurality of actions associated with the profile identified by the profile identifier;

- at least one second computer readable memory having computer readable code embodied therein, the computer readable code configured to cause the at least one processor to:

- (a) retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database,

- (b) compare the mail piece image characteristics to the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data, ~~[[and]]~~

- (c) identify the mail piece as requiring one of the plurality of actions identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data, if the mail piece image characteristics present in the retrieved data substantially match the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the retrieved data, and

- (d) repeat steps a) through c) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.

Claim 12: (cancelled)

Claim 22: (currently amended) A system for processing mail items and identifying mail items for special processing comprising:

- a transport sub-system configured to transport a mail item;

- an imaging sub-system configured to obtain an image of the mail piece;

- a database configured to store a plurality of predetermined profiles, each of the plurality of predetermined profiles having a plurality of selected profile image characteristics, the database including a combination of values for the selected profile image characteristics, the values being chosen such that the combination is consistent with threat mail, the selected profile image characteristics being associated with various locations on the postage side of the mail piece;

- a detector and optical elements configured to obtain mail piece image characteristics associated with an image of the mail piece;

- a first computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to retrieve one of the plurality of predetermined profiles;

- a second computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to successively compare the mail piece image characteristics to [[each]] one of the plurality of predetermined profiles until a match is found, if any; and

- a third computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to identify the mail piece for special processing, if the one of the plurality predetermined profiles substantially matches the mail piece image characteristics for the image of the mail piece; and

- a fourth computer readable code embodied in computer readable memory configured to repeatedly execute said first computer readable code, said second computer readable code, and said third computer readable code for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the one of the plurality of predetermined profiles does not substantially match the mail piece image characteristics.